

 **HALLS OF HORROR PRESENTS** A QUALITY MAGAZINE

DRACULA

COMICS

SPECIAL

70p/\$2





Movie poster mags — each one in full colour throughout, featuring eight fact and photo-packed pages of information on the film plus a giant (almost 2ft x 3ft) full-colour poster. Thirteen official film poster mags to choose from. Bracketed details give poster subject, which is often a full reproduction of the UK film release poster.

- P1** Raiders of the Lost Ark
(Amsell film poster)
- P2** For Your Eyes Only
(Film poster)
- P3** Heavy Metal
(Achilleos film poster)
- P4** Popeye
(Popeye/Olive/Sweetpea)

- P5** Clash of the Titans
(Cutting sword film poster)
- P6** Superman II
(Flying villains film poster)

- P8** Doc Savage (few only)
(Ron Ely poster)

- P9** Flash Gordon
(Film poster — no text)
- P10** Kung Fu (few only)
(Carradine action poster)
- P11** Mommie Dearest
(Film poster)
- P12** The Blue Lagoon
(3 posters, Atkins/Shields)
- P13** Legend of the Lone Ranger
(Film poster)

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OFFICIAL SOUVENIR BROCHURES

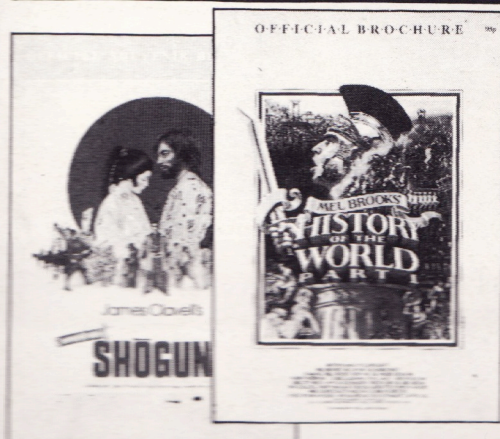
- B1 Shogun:** 27 full colour illustrations, including pre-production visuals. Story synopsis, biographies and film facts.
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DRACULA

COMICS SPECIAL NO 1



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HORROR OF DRACULA

Adapted from the Hammer Film Production by Dez Skinn (script) and Paul Neary (art).

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In which Jonathon Harker arrives at the Count's home and discovers the resting places of the Undead!

Part Two: THE CURSE SPREADS 13

While Count Dracula reaches out to the friends of Jonathon Harker with his vampiric curse, Professor Van Helsing moves in to combat him.

Part Three: THE FINAL CHASE 22

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BONUS FEATURE

THE DRACULA SKETCHBOOK 29

When preparing for his work on this magazine's second strip adaptation, *Dracula Prince of Darkness*, artist John Bolton produced many sketches. As an insight into the artist's way of working, we present a selection of them.

DRACULA PRINCE OF DARKNESS

Adapted from the Hammer Film Production by Donne Avenell (script) and John Bolton (art).

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Part Two: THE POSSESSED 40

The trap is sprung on the two remaining travellers who must fight for their lives to survive Castle Dracula.

Part Three: THE DESTROYERS 45

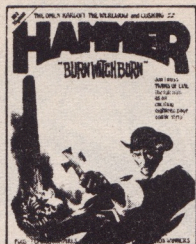
The survivors seek safety in the monastery of Father Sandor, but must soon return to Castle Dracula to prevent the vampire's murdering again.

Editor & Publisher: DEZ SKINN
Cover art: MICK AUSTIN
Distribution: MOORE HARNESS

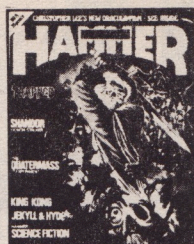
Design: DEXTER CRAIG
RICHARD FISHER
GARRY LEACH

"Dracula" is based on the Universal-International presentation of the Hammer Films production. "Dracula Prince of Darkness" is based on the Associated British-Pathé presentation of the Hammer Films production.

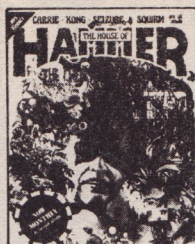
HOH COLLECTOR'S ITEM BACK ISSUES



HoH7 45p
Twins of Evil strip, The Omen, Karloff, The Werewolf, Female Vampires, Devil's Men, Wonder Woman, etc.



HoH8 45p
Quatermass strip, King Kong, Jekyll & Hyde, Hammer Science Fiction films, Lee's NEW Dracula, etc....



HoH9 45p
Quatermass Pt 2; Carrie, Kong (1931), Seizure, Squirm, De Palma, Living Dead At Manchester.



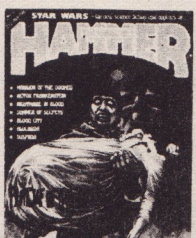
HoH10 45p
Curse of the Werewolf strip, Close Encounters, Sentinel, Fu Manchu, Son of Kong, Shadowman.



HoH11 45p
Gorgon strip Part 1, Harryhausen speaks, Cushing AS Dracula, Wizards, Sinbad, Zoltan, Burnt Offerings.



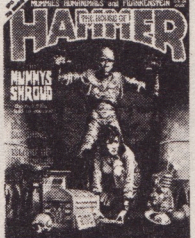
HoH12 45p
Gorgon strip Part 2, Heretic, Blood City, Witchfinder General, 1933 Invisible Man, Face of Frankenstein, etc...



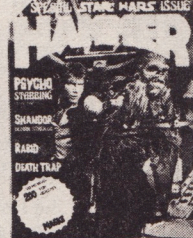
HoH13 45p
Plague of Zombies strip; Star Wars; Uncanny; Paris Festival; People That Time Forgot; Godzilla; Zombies.



HoH14 45p
Million Years BC strip; John Carradine; Romero on Martin + review; Dinosaur films; Paris Festival Films.



HoH15 45p
Mummy's Shroud strip, Dr. Moreau, Audrey Rose, Blue Sunshine, Fanatic, Mummy's feature, Frankenstein etc.



HoH16 45p
Special Star Wars issue, Rabid, Psycho storyboards, Homebodies, Carreras interview, New Shandor strip.



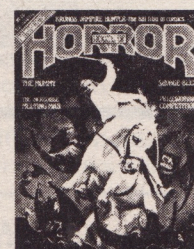
HoH17 45p
Vampire Circus strip, Carreras 2, Harryhausen storyboards, Cathy's Curse, Child, Fairgrounds of Horror.



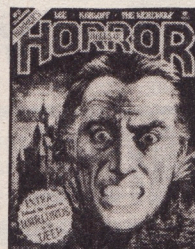
HoH18 45p
Frankenstein, Dracula and Werewolf strip, Cushing interview, History of Hammer I, Rattlers, Deep Red.



HoH19 45p
Reptile strip, Cushing filmography, History of Hammer II, Peking Man and Dinosaurs & Monster Birds.



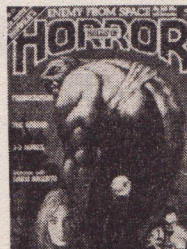
HoH20 45p
Kronos strip, Incredible Melting Man and Savage Bees reviews, Vampire Hunters feature, Hammer III



HoH21 45p
Chris Lee Speaks, Shandor strip, Wrightson, Bolton, Lewis art, Warlords of Deep.



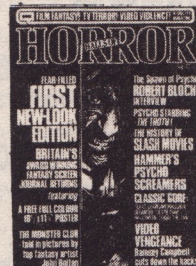
HoH22 45p
The Mummy strip, Sorcerers, Black Sunday, Roger Dicken FX, Hammer mummy films.



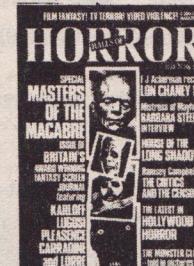
HoH23 45p
Quatermass 2 strip, Last Wave, Argento interview, 3-D films, Rosemary's Baby, The Shout.



HoH24 50p
Special all comic strip issue: Seven Golden Vampires, Quatermass Experiment ... 7 stories



HoH25 75p
Monster Club Pt 1: Bolton strip + 2pg colour poster; Slash Movies, Hammer, Video horror, classic gore, Bloch on Psycho 2.



HoH26 75p
Monster Club Pt 2; Barbara Steele; Lon Chaney by FJA; Lorré, Lugosi, Pleasence, Karloff, Carradine, Critics & censors.



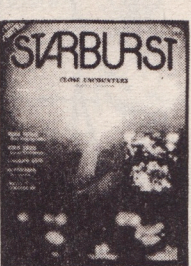
HoH27 75p
Brides of Dracula strip, horror video listing, Argento, Kolchak, Jaws 3-D, History of Hammer & Media Macabre.



SB1 55p
Jeff Hawke strip, The Making of Star Wars, Harry Harrison, Star Trek Writers, Trek episode guide, Things to Come.



SB2 55p
C-3PO Interview, Spider-Man Movie, Ray Bradbury on Close Encounters, Wizards, The Prisoner, Space Cruiser, Jeff Hawke.



SB3 55p
Han Solo interview, Quark, Star Trek-the movie, Superman, Logan's run, Close Encounters Superman poster, SF films.

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THE HORROR OF DRACULA

part one

Castle Dracula

PREPARED AS HE IS, HARKER, CAN HARDLY SUPPRESS A SHUDDER AT THE SCENE OF DESOLATION.

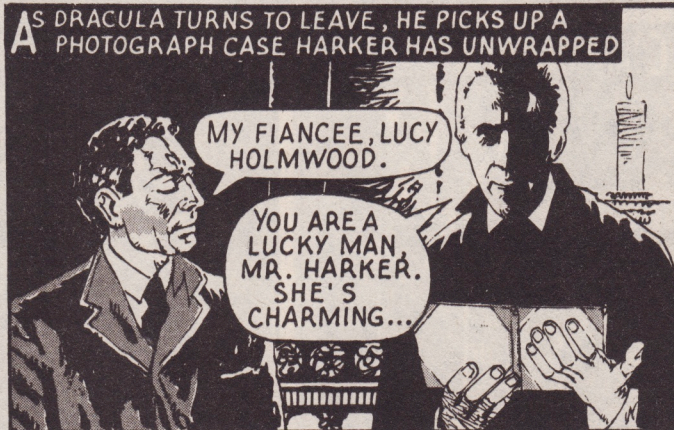
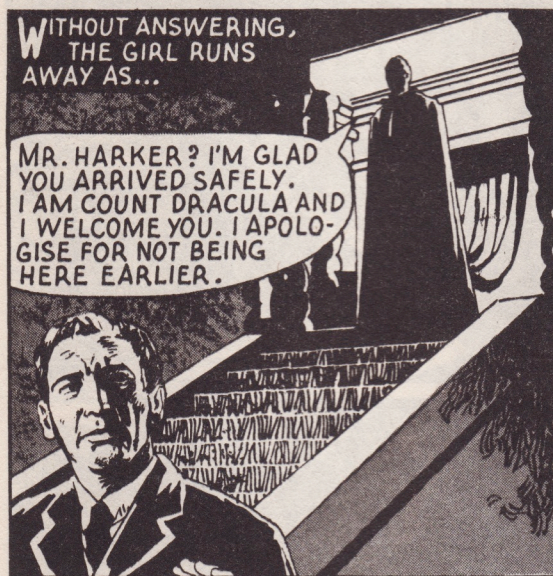
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FOREST IT LOOMED, CASTLE DRACULA...A DARK, FOREBODING PLACE IN A THICK FOREST OF DEAD TREES. FOR AROUND THE CASTLE NOTHING GREW AND NO BIRDS COULD BE HEARD OR SEEN, ALMOST AS IF A PLAGUE HAD VANQUISHED ALL LIFE FROM THE AREA. IT WAS TO THIS REPULSIVE ESTATE, JONATHAN HARKER HAD COME, FROM NOT TOO DISTANT KARLSTADT, FOR THE ESTATE'S OWNER HAD NEED OF A LIBRARIAN AND HARKER HAD REASON TO ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT.

DWARFED BY THE SURROUNDINGS, HE WALKS OVER THE CASTLE'S PORTICE KNOWING HE HAS A JOB TO DO AND AN APPOINTMENT TO KEEP WITH...COUNT DRACULA.

THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN UNDER HIS HAND AND HARKER WALKS INTO AN ALMOST STYGIAN DARKNESS, CUT ONLY BY THE WEAK LIGHT OF DAY FROM THE OVERCAST SKY OUTSIDE.

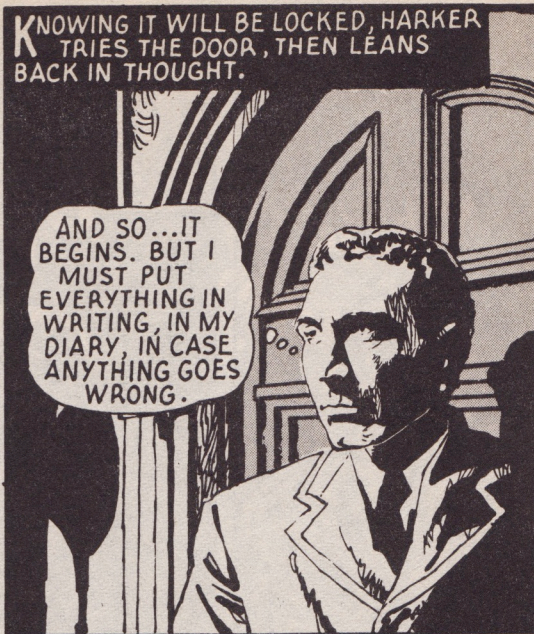
NO ONE GREETES HIS ARRIVAL, THOUGH BEFORE HIM A LARGE TABLE LOOMS UPON WHICH A MEAL HAS BEEN SET. BESIDE THE FOOD IS A LETTER ADDRESSED TO HIM.

My Dear Harker,
I am sorry I was
unable to meet you. Eat
well, make yourself comfortable
Dracula.





AND NOW, MR. HARKER,
I BID YOU GOOD NIGHT.



KNOWING IT WILL BE LOCKED, HARKER
TRIES THE DOOR, THEN LEANS
BACK IN THOUGHT.

AND SO...IT
BEGINS. BUT I
MUST PUT
EVERYTHING IN
WRITING, IN MY
DIARY, IN CASE
ANYTHING GOES
WRONG.



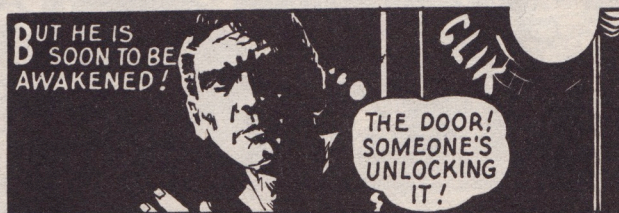
"At last I have met Count
Dracula. He accepts me as a
man who has agreed to work
among his books, as I intended."



"It only remains for me now to await
the daylight hours when, with God's
help, I will forever end this man's
reign of terror."



HIS DIARY SAFELY
HIDDEN, HARKER
DOZES.



BUT HE IS
SOON TO BE
AWAKENED!

THE DOOR!
SOMEONE'S
UNLOCKING
IT!



CAUTIOUSLY, HARKER LEAVES
HIS ROOM AND SEES...

AT THE END
OF THE CORRIDOR
... AN OPEN DOOR!

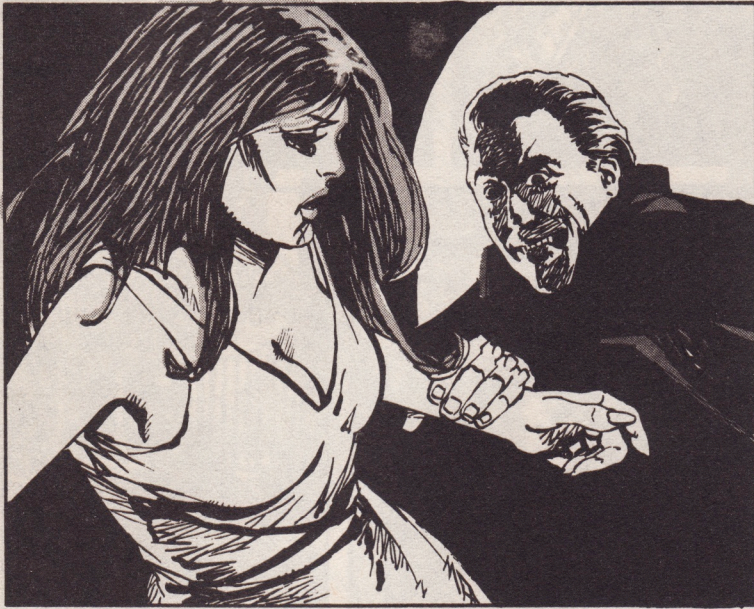
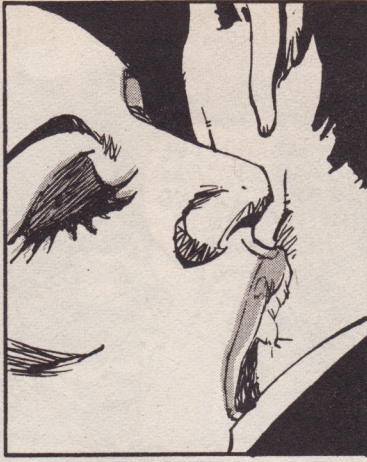
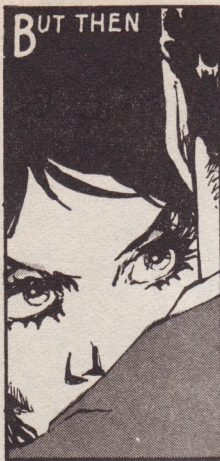


INSIDE THE ROOM, SHE WAITS,
WONDERING IF HE WILL
COME.



YOU WILL HELP
ME, MR. HARKER?
I FEEL SO... SO
WEAK.

IF IT'S AT ALL
POSSIBLE. COME,
REST YOUR HEAD
ON MY SHOULDER
... DON'T CRY.



A FULL DAY HAS ELAPSED. IT IS LATE AFTERNOON WHEN HARKER BEGINS TO AWAKEN, BACK IN HIS OWN ROOM.



A SUDDEN REMEMBRANCE OF THE PREVIOUS DAY CLEARS HIS CLOUDY BRAIN.

OH MY GOD! I'VE BECOME A VICTIM OF DRACULA AND THE WOMAN IN HIS POWER.



MY DIARY... I MUST HIDE IT. IT TELLS THE FULL STORY.



FINDING THE DOOR LOCKED ONCE MORE, HARKER SLIDES THROUGH THE WINDOW...



AND HIDES HIS PRECIOUS DIARY IN THE FOREST BEYOND CASTLE DRACULA.

I ONLY PRAY IT WILL BE FOUND... IN TIME!



AND NOW I MUST ACT... WHILE MY SOUL IS STILL MINE TO CONTROL.



DOWN INTO THE DANK MAUSOLEUM HE STALKS, DUSK DRAWING EVER CLOSER.

THERE THEY ARE. THE FOUL RESTING PLACES OF...

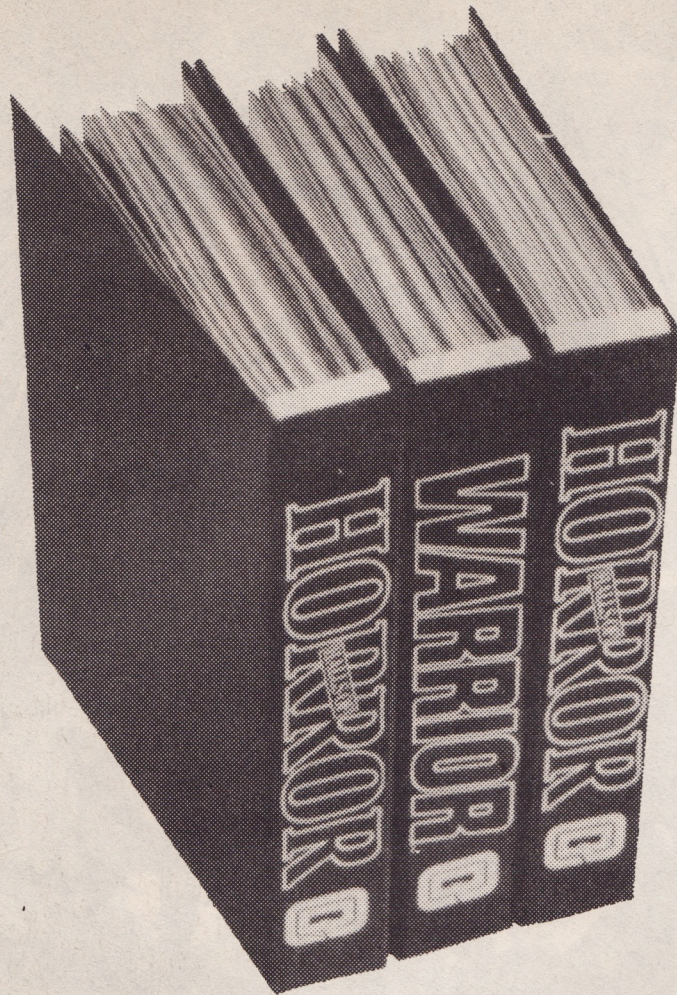


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part
two

The Curse Spreads

AT THE HOME OF ARTHUR AND MINA HOLMWOOD...



PROFESSOR VAN HELSING, YOU'RE TELLING US THAT JONATHON HARKER IS... DEAD? B-BUT HOW?

PLEASE, MR. HOLMWOOD, DO NOT FORCE ME. I CANNOT TELL YOU *HOW* HE DIED.

YOU SEE, HE WAS A... COLLEAGUE OF MINE. I WENT TO VISIT HIM AT CASTLE DRACULA...



"WHEN I ARRIVED, EVERYTHING WAS QUITE NORMAL.

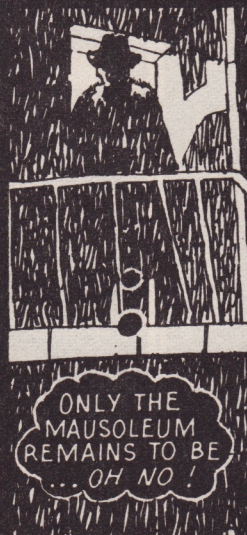
"I WALKED UP TO HIS ROOM TO SEE HIM...

"AND FOUND HIS BODY LAID AT REST IN HIS ROOM. BUT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF FOUL PLAY.

"AT AN EARLIER REQUEST OF HIS OWN, I HAD HIM CREMATED BEFORE I LEFT."



HIS ROOM... RANSACKED! AND LUCY'S PHOTOGRAPH... GONE! BUT WHERE IS HARKER?



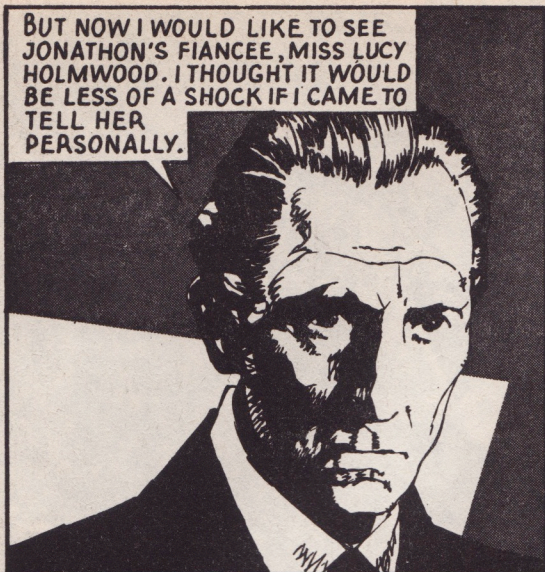
ONLY THE MAUSOLEUM REMAINS TO BE... OH NO!



...I'M TOO LATE!



FORGIVE ME, JONATHON. IT MUST BE DONE!



THE NEXT DAY, THERE IS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR OF VAN HELSING'S HOTEL ROOMS...

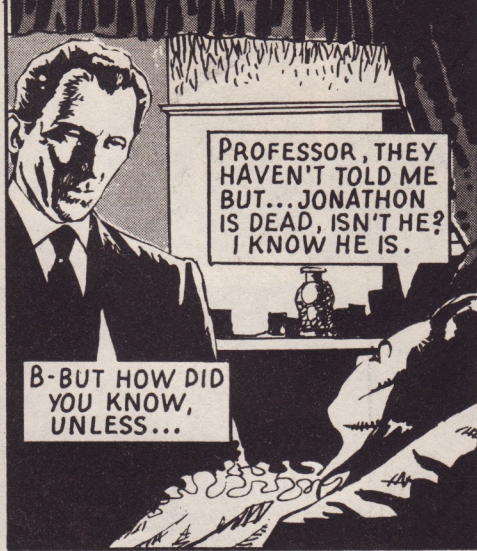


COME IN.

PROFESSOR VAN HELSING, COME QUICKLY. IT'S LUCY...



WITHIN MINUTES, VAN HELSING IS STANDING OVER THE WEAKENED LUCY HOLMWOOD.



PROFESSOR, THEY HAVEN'T TOLD ME BUT... JONATHAN IS DEAD, ISN'T HE? I KNOW HE IS.

B-BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW, UNLESS...

HER ANAEMIC LOOK. HER WEAKENED STATE... AND NOW THIS. THERE IS ONLY ONE PERSON WHO COULD HAVE TOLD HER I MUST ACT QUICKLY.



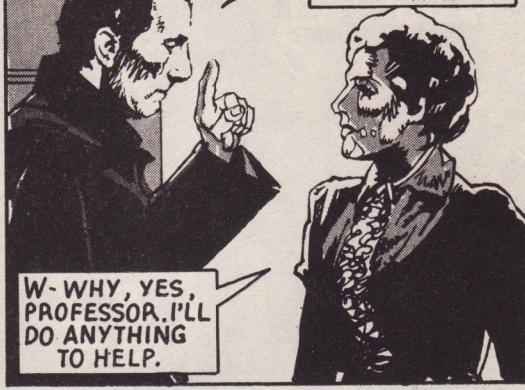
WOULD YOU JUST TURN YOUR HEAD A LITTLE, MISS LUCY. THANK YOU.



THOSE MARKS! I WAS RIGHT! DRACULA IS SEEKING HIS REVENGE!

VAN HELSING QUICKLY RUSHES MINA DOWNSTAIRS...

THIS IS WORSE THAN I REALISED. HAVE LOTS OF GARLIC BULBS AND FLOWERS PLACED AROUND MISS LUCY'S ROOM AND ON NO ACCOUNT LET THE WINDOWS BE OPENED AT NIGHT. I WILL EXPLAIN ALL ONCE MISS LUCY IS SAFE.



W-WHY, YES, PROFESSOR. I'LL DO ANYTHING TO HELP.

CONFIDENT IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT DRACULA CANNOT ENTER A ROOM UNBIDDEN AND WITH THE ADDED PROTECTION OF THE GARLIC FLOWERS TO WARD OFF EVIL, VAN HELSING LEAVES. BUT, THAT EVENING...



OH, GERDA... THE HORRIBLE SMELL OF THOSE FLOWERS STIFLES ME. I CAN'T BREATHE! PLEASE TAKE THEM AWAY.

VERY WELL, MISS LUCY. THEY MAY KEEP AWAY ANY INSECTS BUT IF THEY MAKE YOU FEEL WORSE, I'LL OPEN THE WINDOWS AND LET IN SOME GOOD FRESH AIR.

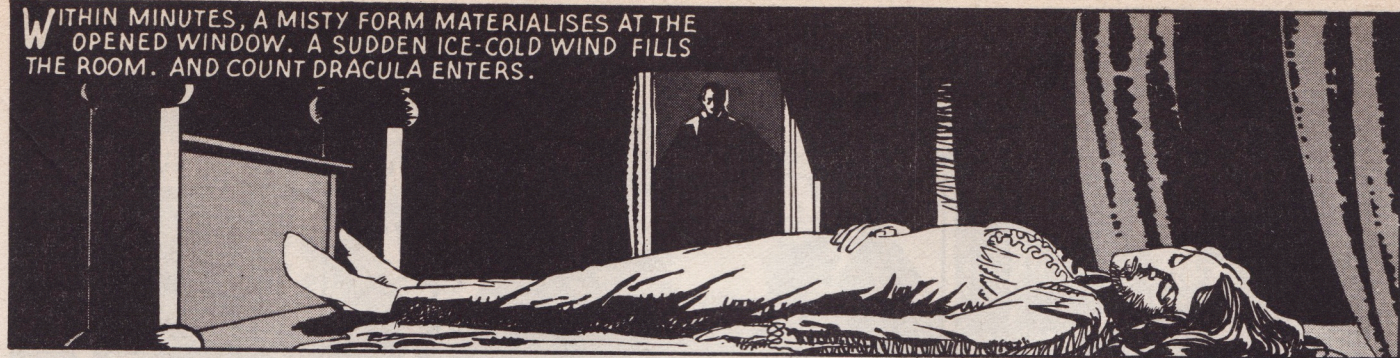


OH, THANK YOU, GERDA. I WOULD DO IT MYSELF BUT I FEEL SO WEAK.

NOW, MY BELOVED, NOW YOU CAN COME TO ME.



WITHIN MINUTES, A MISTY FORM MATERIALISES AT THE OPENED WINDOW. A SUDDEN ICE-COLD WIND FILLS THE ROOM. AND COUNT DRACULA ENTERS.



THE NEXT MORNING...

IF MY INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN FOLLOWED, THIS WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED.

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS RUBBISH! DEATH SEEMS TO FOLLOW YOU, VAN HELSING. DEATH AND UNBELIEVABLE STORIES. FIRST THE MYSTERY ABOUT JONATHON AND NOW *THIS*. SEALED WINDOWS AND GARLIC INDEED!



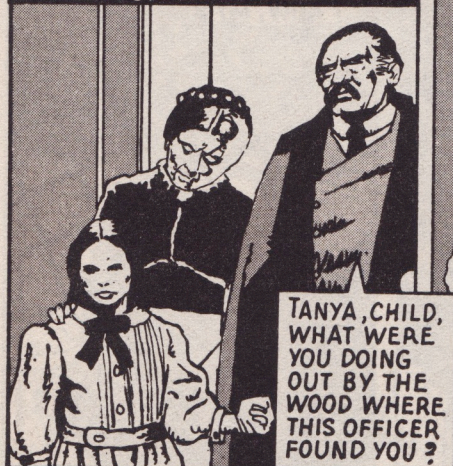
PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING EARLIER. BUT I HAD HOPED TO AVOID IT. TAKE THIS, JONATHON HARKER'S DIARY, IT WILL EXPLAIN THE TRUE REASON WHY HE VISITED CASTLE DRACULA. THEN YOU'LL KNOW HOW HE AND MISS LUCY DIED. I KNEW YOU WOULD NOT BELIEVE ME, BUT PERHAPS JONATHON'S WORDS...



AND NOW I FEEL I SHOULD LEAVE YOU. GOOD DAY.



SEVERAL EVENINGS LATER, THE LOCAL CONSTABLE APPEARS AT THE DOOR WITH THE DAUGHTER OF GERDA, THE HOLMWOOD MAID...



TANYA, CHILD, WHAT WERE YOU DOING OUT BY THE WOOD WHERE THIS OFFICER FOUND YOU?

I WAS OUT PLAYING BY MYSELF WHEN SHE CALLED ME. WE WALKED TOGETHER TOWARDS THE WOOD. THEN WE SAT DOWN AND SHE WENT TO KISS ME. BUT SOMEONE CAME ALONG AND SHE RAN AWAY.



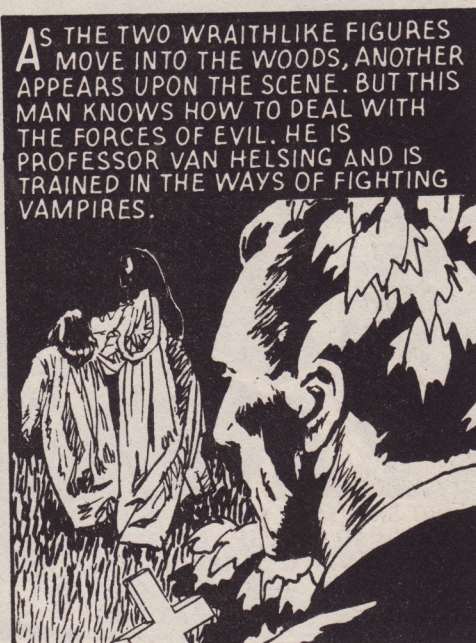
WHO DID, DEAR... WHO WAS SHE?

AUNT LUCY!



THEN IT'S TRUE. IT'S ALL TRUE! VAN HELSING, THE DIARY, EVERYTHING. AND POOR LUCY... SHE'S BECOME A VAMPIRE!





SEEMINGLY FROM NOWHERE, VAN HELSING STRIKES!



FEARING THE HOLY CRUCIFIX, THE CREATURE WHO HAD ONCE BEEN LUCY HOLMWOOD TURNS AND FLEES TOWARDS HER "HOME"... HER COFFIN!



NO, WAIT, HOLMWOOD. DON'T PURSUE. LET HER THINK HERSELF SAFE. SEE, THE SUN IS ABOUT TO RISE...THERE IS ONLY ONE PLACE SHE CAN GO NOW.

AND SO...

YOU WERE RIGHT. HERE SHE LIES, IN HER COFFIN. SHE LOOKS SO ALIVE.

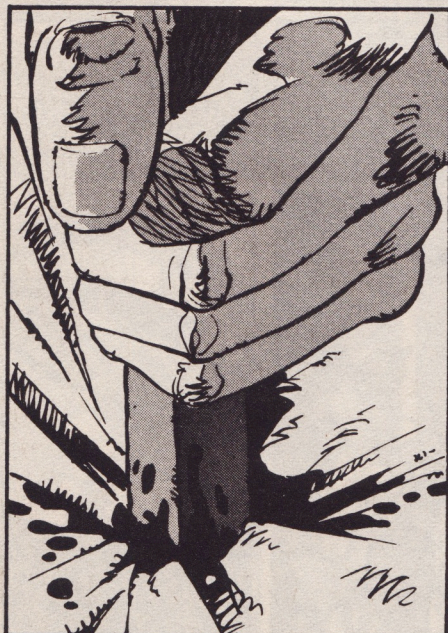
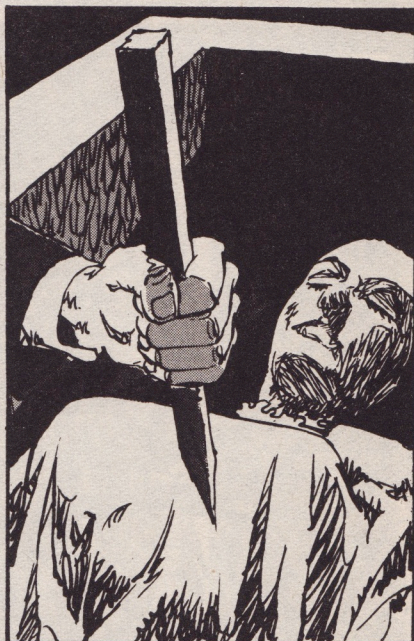


BUT SHE IS NOT ALIVE... RATHER SHE IS UN-DEAD! THESE LAST THREE NIGHTS I HAVE WATCHED HER TOMB, WAITING FOR HER TO RISE, TO LEAD ME TO COUNT DRACULA.

NO! HOW CAN YOU SUGGEST SUCH A THING? THAT SHE SHOULD BE POSSESSED BY THIS EVIL FOR ANOTHER SECOND. THINK OF GERDA'S CHILD OUT THERE AND THE OTHERS SHE WILL DEFILE. NO, I COULDN'T... I COULDN'T LET YOU.

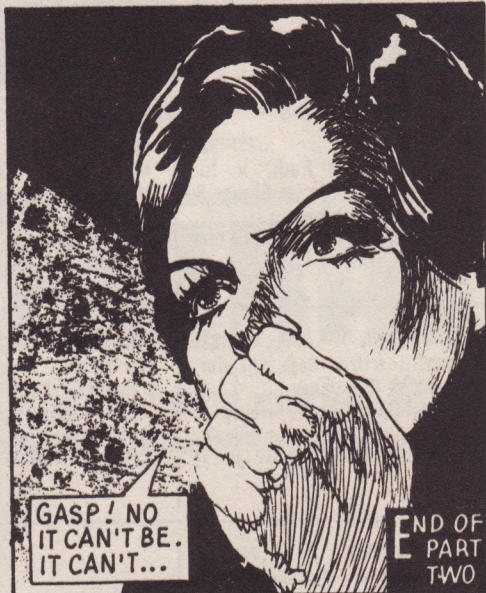
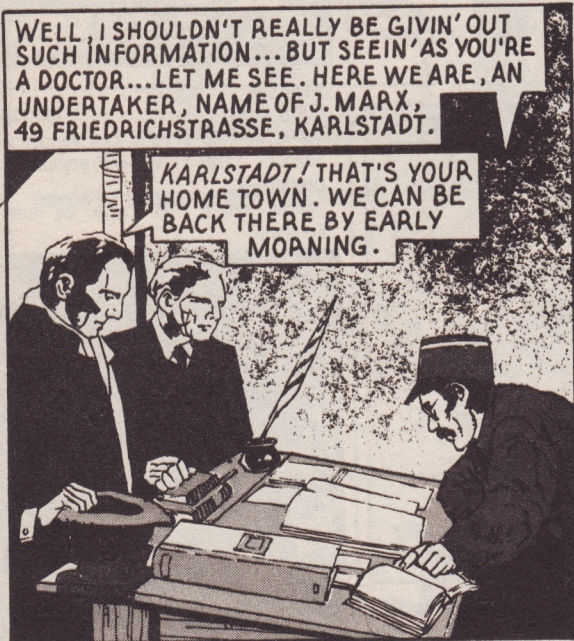
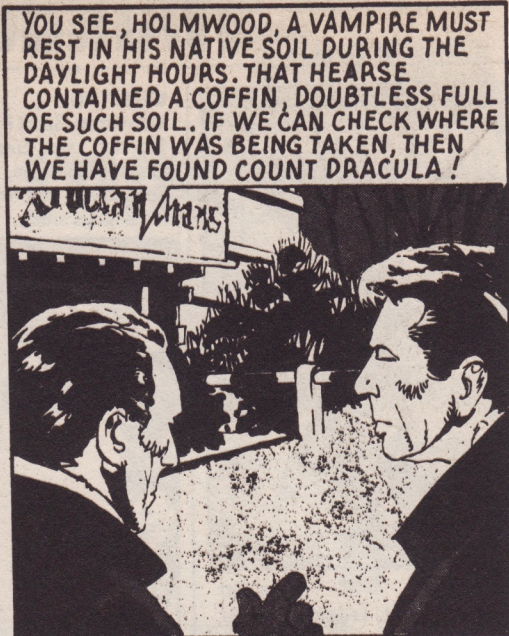
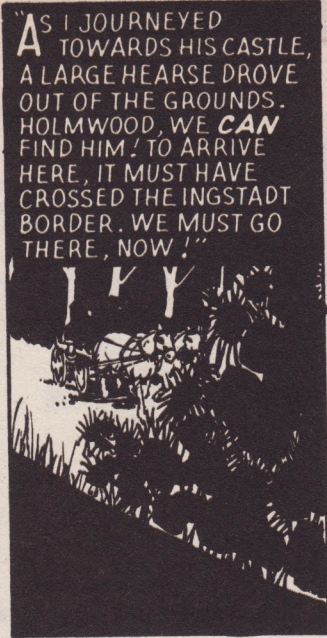


THEN TO LIBERATE HER SOUL, WE MUST DESTROY THIS SHELL WHICH THROUGH THE EVIL OF DRACULA HOLDS HER HERE.

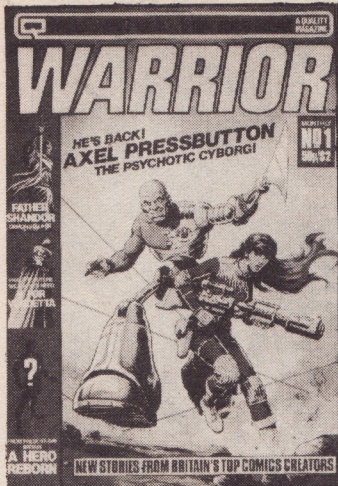


THE CURSE BROKEN, AN EXPRESSION OF PEACE SPREADS OVER THE GIRL'S FACE.



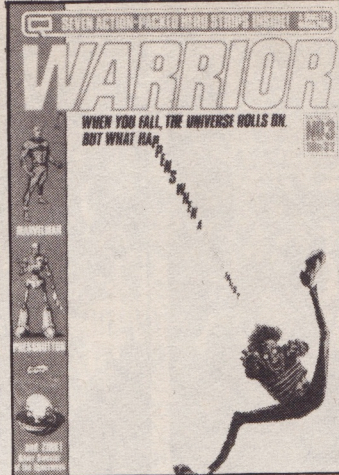
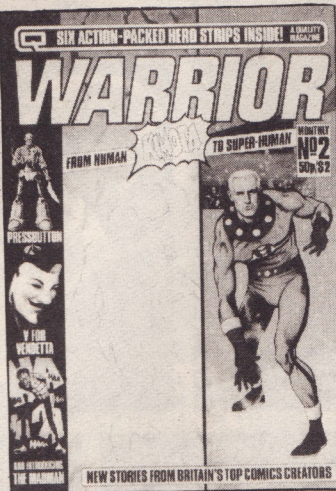


WARRIOR BACK ISSUES:



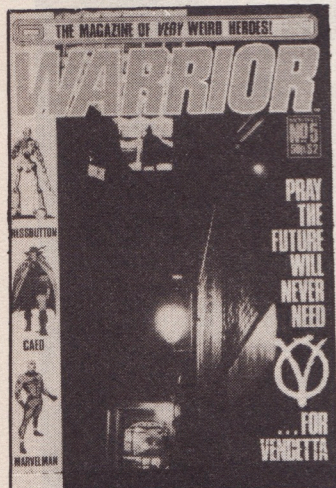
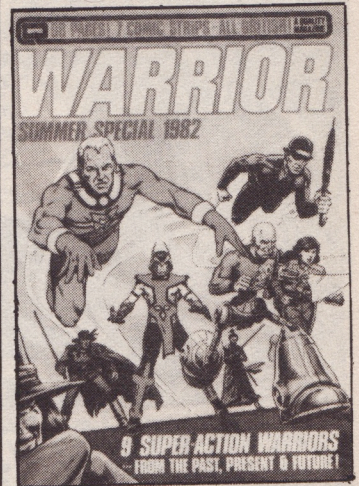
ISSUE ONE ... £1.00(\$4)
Rebirth Marvelman, Legend of Prester John, Spiral Path, V for Vendetta, Shandor, Laser Eraser & Pressbutton.
Special features: "True Story" by Moore & Gibbons, Marvelman article.

ISSUE TWO ... 75p(\$3)
Marvelman, Spiral Path, V for Vendetta, Shandor, Laser Eraser & Pressbutton, intro: The Madman.
Special features: Dispatches, Pressbutton article.



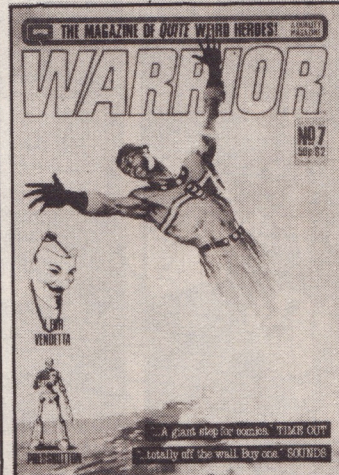
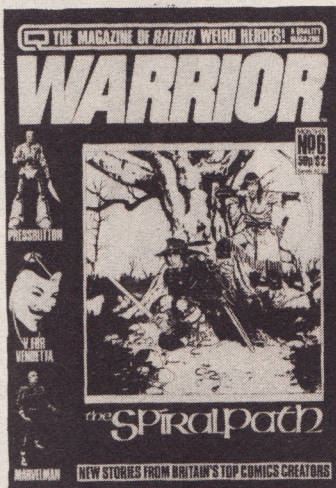
ISSUE THREE ... 75p(\$3)
Marvelman, Spiral Path, V for Vendetta, Shandor, The Madman, Laser Eraser & Pressbutton, Dispatches.
Special feature: Zirk solo strip by Moore & Bolland.

ISSUE FOUR ... 75p(\$3)
Marvelman, Spiral Path, Pressbutton origin, The Madman, Shandor, V for Vendetta, Dispatches.
Special feature: Fearn's Golden Amazon by David Lloyd.



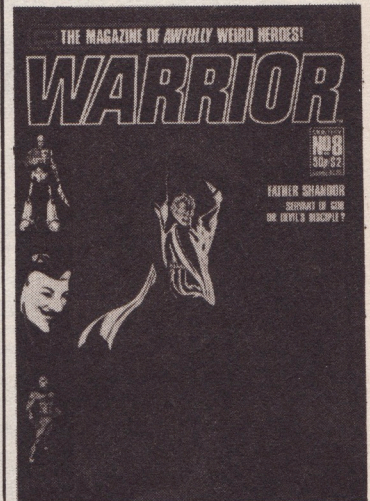
ISSUE FIVE ... 75p(\$3)
Marvelman, Spiral Path, V for Vendetta, Shandor, The Madman, Laser Eraser & Pressbutton, Dispatches.
Special feature: Bonus V for Vendetta complete strip.

ISSUE SIX ... 75p(\$3)
Marvelman, Spiral Path, V for Vendetta, Shandor, The Madman, Laser Eraser & Pressbutton, Dispatches.
Special feature: "Mrs Murphy's Murders" by Steve Moore & Dave Gibbons.



ISSUE SEVEN ... 75p(\$3)
Marvelman, Spiral Path, V for Vendetta, Shandor, The Madman, Laser Eraser & Pressbutton, Dispatches.
Special feature: Marvelman colour pin-up by Mick Austin.

ISSUE EIGHT ... 75p(\$3)
Marvelman, Spiral Path, V for Vendetta, Shandor, Laser Eraser & Pressbutton, Dispatches.
Special feature: "Stir Crazy" by Hunt Emerson.



ISSUE NINE ... 75p(\$3)
Marvelman, Spiral Path, V for Vendetta, Shandor, Laser Eraser & Pressbutton, Dispatches.
Special feature: Warpsmith by Alan Moore & Garry Leach

ISSUE TEN ... 75p(\$3)
Marvelman, Spiral Path, V for Vendetta, Shandor, Laser Eraser & Pressbutton, Dispatches.
Special features: Warpsmith conclusion + Warpsmith colour pin-up.

ISSUE ELEVEN ... 75p(\$3)
Marvelman, Spiral Path, V for Vendetta, Laser Eraser and Pressbutton, Dispatches.
Special feature: Legend of Prester John Part 2.

ISSUE TWELVE ... 75p(\$3)
Anniversary Special featuring Young Marvelman, BoJeffries Saga, The V Theme, Pressbutton solo story, The Spiral Path conclusion, Prester John conclusion.

ISSUE THIRTEEN ... 75p(\$3)
Marvelman, BoJeffries Saga, Shandor, V for Vendetta, Dispatches.
Special features: Zirk by Henry & Leach; Twilight World preview; Parkhouse/Ridgway SF short story; Zirk pin-up

ISSUE FOURTEEN ... 75p(\$3)
Marvelman, Twilight World, V for Vendetta, Father Shandor Demon Stalker, Dispatches.
Special features: Ektryn by Cam Kennedy + Future History article.

ISSUE FIFTEEN ... 75p(\$3)
Marvelman, Twilight World, V for Vendetta, Shandor, Laser Eraser & Pressbutton, Dispatches.
Special features: Writer Interview with Steve Moore; LE/PB pin-up

ISSUE SIXTEEN ... 75p(\$3)
Marvelman, Twilight World, V for Vendetta, Father Shandor Demon Stalker, Dispatches.
Special features: Dez Skinn on creating comics; Zirk Christmas Card; Marvelman pin-up

ISSUE SEVENTEEN ... 75p(\$3)
V for Vendetta, Twilight World conclusion; The Marvelman Family 12 page complete strip.
Special features: Jaramsheela solo strip + colour pin-up; Alan Moore on creating V for Vendetta.

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part three

RESTING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DAYS, VAN HELSING AND HOLMWOOD DRINK COFFEE UPON THEIR EARLY MORNING RETURN FROM INGSTADT. HOLMWOOD ENQUIRES OF THE MAID WHETHER HIS WIFE IS YET AWAKE, LITTLE REALISING THAT SHE WILL SOON BRING ABOUT...

The Final Chase

SHE'S NOT THERE, SIR!
AND HER BED IS ALL
MADE UP, AS IF IT HASN'T
BEEN SLEPT IN!



VAN HELSING AND HOLMWOOD
EXCHANGE WORRIED
GLANCES, BUT BEFORE EITHER
CAN UTTER A SOUND THE
DOOR OPENS, AND...

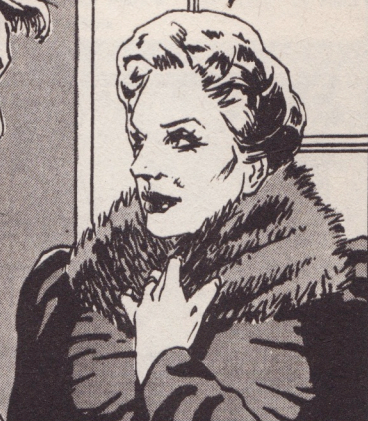


ARTHUR, PROFESSOR VAN
HELSING! YOU BOTH
RETURNED EARLIER THAN
I EXPECTED.

DARLING, WE WERE
WORRIED. YOU LOOK
QUITE PALE... WHERE
HAVE YOU BEEN ALL
NIGHT?



SILLY. I WOKE EARLY,
MADE MY BED AND
WENT FOR A DELIGHT-
FUL STROLL. THAT'S
ALL.



RELIEVED, THE TWO MEN DEPART AND SET OUT
TO FOLLOW THEIR ONLY LEAD. THE ADDRESS
OF J. MARX, UNDERTAKER.

BUT UPON
SPEAKING
WITH MR. MARX...



NOW THERE'S AN ODD COINCIDENCE.
I KNOW THE ONE YOU GENTLEMEN
MEAN. BEAUTIFUL CASKET, WAS
BRUSHING IT DOWN ONLY YESTERDAY.
THEN, THIS MORNING WHEN I WENT
DOWN TO GIVE THE BRASSES A
RUBBING OVER, IT HAD GONE!
DISAPPEARED, IT HAD!

DISCOURAGED, THE VAMPIRE HUNTERS RETURN HOME. THAT EVENING, THEY TRY TO MAKE NEW PLANS...



HE MUST KNOW WE'RE ON TO HIM, VAN HELSING!

YET DRACULA WOULD HARDLY FLEE HOME. HE *MUST* BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE!

HOLMWOOD, DO YOU KNOW OF ANY OLD ABANDONED BUILDINGS AROUND HERE? SOMEWHERE A COFFIN COULD BE HIDDEN?

WHY, YES. THERE'S AN OLD NEGLECTED GRAVEYARD NEARBY. YOU DON'T THINK...

GRIMLY, VAN HELSING ANSWERS HOLMWOOD'S HALF-SPOKEN QUESTION...

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO OVERLOOK ANY POSSIBILITY. COME, WE MUST CHECK IT OUT!

ONE MOMENT, VAN HELSING. MINA, I'D FEEL MUCH SAFER IF YOU'D WEAR THIS IN OUR ABSENCE. DON'T ASK ME WHY, JUST WEAR IT FOR MY SAKE.

ARTHUR, I...I...

BUT HOLMWOOD INSISTS.

AND...

MINA, WHAT IS IT? SHE'S FAINTED, VAN HELSING!

I FEAR I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HAS HAPPENED. TAKE A LOOK AT HER HAND WHERE THE CRUCIFIX TOUCHED...

IT-IT'S BURNT HER! OH, NO... NOT MINA TOO!

YOU SAID LUCY WOULD LEAD US TO DRACULA. WHY DIDN'T I LISTEN TO YOU? THEN THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED.

YOU MUSTN'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR THAT. YOU MUST HAVE THE COURAGE TO LET MINA LEAD US NOW. TONIGHT WE'LL SEAL HER ROOM, GUARD THE FRONT AND BACK OF THE HOUSE, AND THEN...WE WAIT.

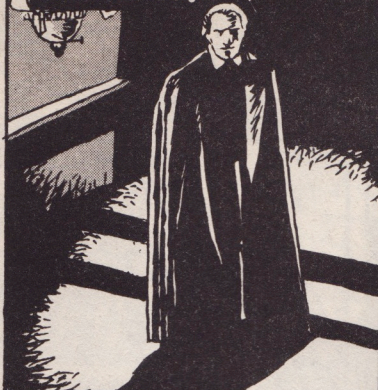
AND SO...

WITH GOD'S HELP I PRAY WE SUCCEED FOR MINA'S SAKE!

BUT, WHILE THE TWO VAMPIRE HUNTERS GUARD THE OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE, MINA, UNDER DRACULA'S SPELL, OPENS THE DOOR TO HER BEDROOM...



AND THERE, ON THE STAIRS, HE STANDS... *COUNT DRACULA!*



AS SILENT AND AS SMOOTH AS A WISP OF FOG, HE GLIDES INTO HER ROOM...



THE FOOLS! THEY TRY IN VAIN, TO MATCH WITS WITH THE LORD OF THE UNDEAD!

COME TO ME NOW, MINA HOLMWOOD. LET ME PROVE TO THEM THEY FAILED ONCE MORE, THAT THEY HAVE NO MORE CHANCE THAN HAS THE DAY OF HOLDING BACK THE NIGHT!



LATER, AS THE SUN BEGINS TO APPEAR ON THE DISTANT HORIZON...

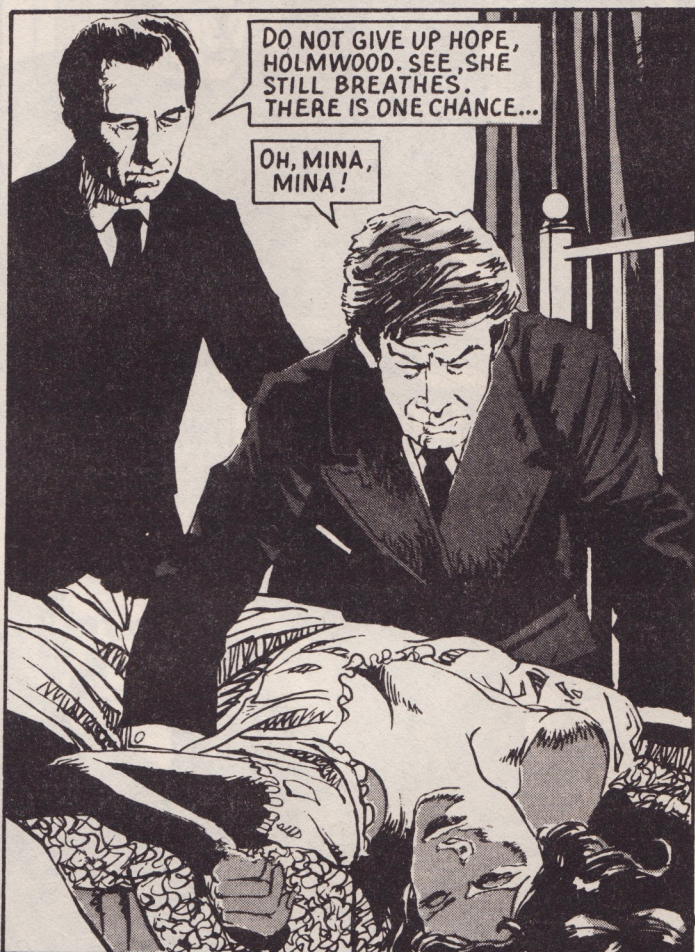


MINA WILL BE SAFE NOW. WE'D BETTER GO GET SOME REST.

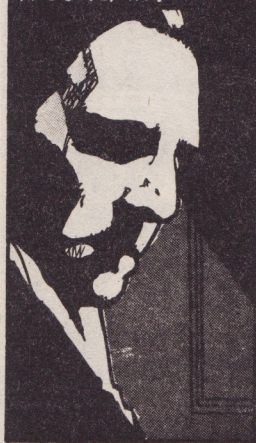
FINE. YOU CAN HAVE THE SPARE ROOM, I'LL GET YOU A RUG.

DO NOT GIVE UP HOPE, HOLMWOOD. SEE, SHE STILL BREATHES. THERE IS ONE CHANCE...

OH, MINA, MINA!



BUT AS THE BONE-WEARY VAN HELSING IS ABOUT TO ENTER HIS ROOM, HE HEARS A SCREAM!



AND BURSTING INTO THE HOLMWOOD BEDROOM SEES...



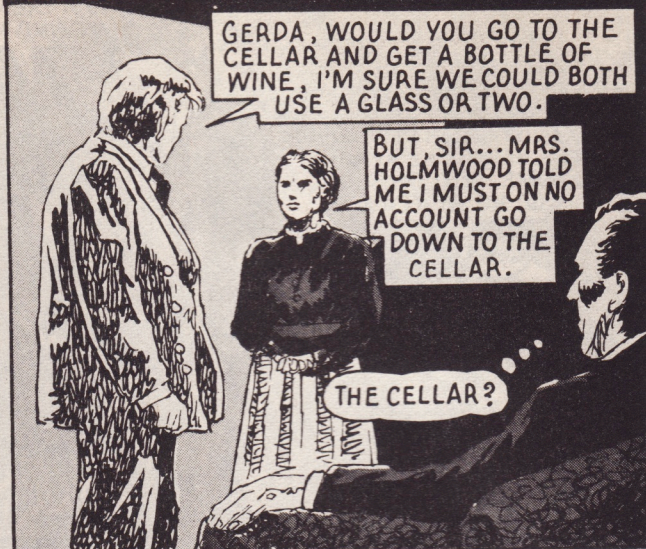
HASTILY, VAN HELSING PREPARES A BLOOD TRANSFUSION AND SOON THE RICH STRONG FLUID FLOWS INTO MINA'S WEAKENED BODY.

SHE'LL BE FINE NOW, HOLMWOOD. BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE PLENTY TO DRINK AFTER GIVING SO MUCH BLOOD. TEA, OR BETTER STILL, WINE.



BUT HOW DID THAT FIEND GET IN HERE? WE HAD THE HOUSE SO WELL PROTECTED.

THE EXHAUSTED VAMPIRE HUNTERS LEAVE MINA TO SLEEP AND RETIRE TO THE SITTING ROOM, PUZZLED.



GERDA, WOULD YOU GO TO THE CELLAR AND GET A BOTTLE OF WINE, I'M SURE WE COULD BOTH USE A GLASS OR TWO.

BUT, SIR... MRS. HOLMWOOD TOLD ME I MUST ON NO ACCOUNT GO DOWN TO THE CELLAR.

THE CELLAR?

THAT'S HOW DRACULA GOT TO MINA. HE'S ALREADY INSIDE THE HOUSE... IN THE CELLAR! WE MUST MOVE QUICKLY, THE SUN IS ALREADY SETTING.



THE TWO MEN DASH FRANTICALLY DOWNSTAIRS, ONLY TO FIND...



TOO LATE AGAIN. BUT THIS WILL FOIL HIS PLANS.

B-BUT HOW..?

THIS HOLY CRUCIFIX WILL PREVENT HIM FROM BEING ABLE TO RETURN HERE AT SUNRISE.



BUT SUDDENLY...

AAAAAAAAA

THAT SCREAM, HE'S UPSTAIRS!



VAN HELSING, MINA HAS GONE!



HE KNOWS WHAT WE'VE DONE. DRACULA IS RETURNING TO HIS NATIVE SOIL, HIS LAST REFUGE... AND HE'S TAKEN YOUR WIFE WITH HIM!

YOU HAVE ELUDED ME BEFORE, DRACULA, BUT THIS TIME I SWEAR YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR HIDEOUS CRIMES... EVEN IF I HAVE TO CHASE YOU TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!



IN HOLMWOOD'S COACH, THE TWO VAMPIRE HUNTERS SPEED TOWARDS CASTLE DRACULA!

WE *MUST* CATCH UP WITH HIS COACH BEFORE HE REACHES HIS HOME, WILL YOUR HORSES GO NO FASTER?

BUT SURELY WE WILL HAVE HIM TRAPPED IN HIS CASTLE?

NO! BEFORE DAWN HE WILL BURY HIMSELF SOMEWHERE...ANYWHERE...WITHIN THE FOREST OR THE GROUNDS. THEN WE WILL NEVER FIND HIM!

LOOK, AHEAD...THE CASTLE! AND THERE HE STANDS WITH MINA!

DRACULA! YOU ARE TOO LATE...YOU CANNOT HIDE FROM US! SEE, THE SUN BEGINS TO RISE!

HSSSSSSSS!

LEAVING HOLMWOOD TO CARE FOR HIS UNCONSCIOUS WIFE, VAN HELSING RACES AFTER THE LORD OF VAMPIRES...

WHO FLEES INTO HIS DARK CASTLE, SAYING NOT WHETHER HE TRIES TO EVADE HIS PURSUER OR THE GOLDEN LIGHT OF DAWN.

FOR A MOMENT, VAN HELSING HESITATES, NOT KNOWING WHICH DOOR TO OPEN. THEN HE HEARS A SOUND...

THE DINING ROOM!

BURSTING IN, VAN HELSING SEES THE VAMPIRE RAISING A TRAPDOOR IN THE FLOOR. THEN DRACULA TURNS...



...AND LUNGES!



WITH THE POWER OF TEN MEN DRACULA GRABS HIS NEMESIS BY THE THROAT...



AND FORCES HIM BACK AGAINST THE TABLE. BUT WITH ALL HIS FAILING STRENGTH, VAN HELSING'S HAND GRABS THE VAMPIRE'S SHOULDERS AND PUSHES...



PERHAPS TOYING WITH HIS PREY, DRACULA STANDS BACK, ARROGANT IN HIS SELF-CONFIDENCE. AND VAN HELSING REALISES THE VAMPIRE WAS NOT FLEEING FROM HIM, BUT FROM...

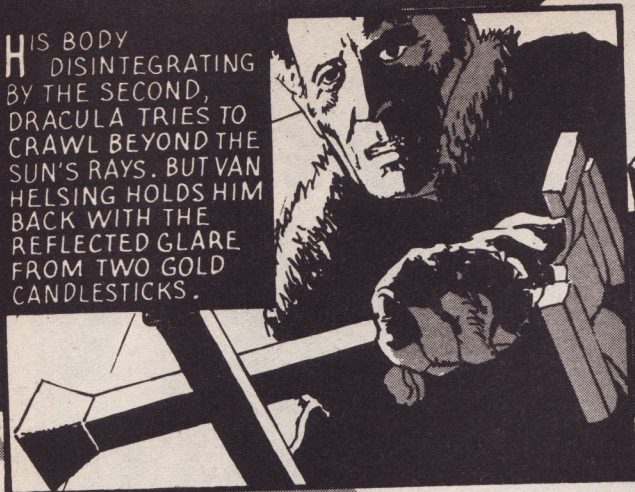
THE SUNLIGHT! A DAZZLING SHAFT OF WHICH BURSTS THROUGH A CRACK IN THE HEAVY CURTAIN, BURNING THE DEAD FLESH OF THE VAMPIRE LORD'S PALLID FACE...



WITH A SUDDEN SURGE OF STRENGTH, VAN HELSING TEARS DOWN THE PROTECTIVE MATERIAL ALLOWING THE FULL LIGHT OF DAY TO DRENCH HIS FOE!



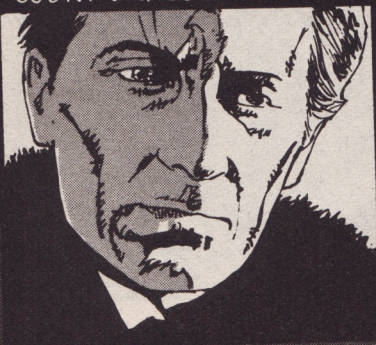
HIS BODY
DISINTEGRATING
BY THE SECOND,
DRACULA TRIES TO
CRAWL BEYOND THE
SUN'S RAYS. BUT VAN
HELSING HOLDS HIM
BACK WITH THE
REFLECTED GLARE
FROM TWO GOLD
CANDLESTICKS.



AND SO, THE LORD OF THE UNDEAD... **DIES!**



FOR A MOMENT, THE
VAMPIRE HUNTER STANDS
TRANSFIXED, UNTIL A
SUDDEN WIND BLOWS
ASUNDER THE PILE OF FETID
ASH THAT HAD ONCE BEEN
THE GREATEST EVIL THE
WORLD HAD EVER KNOWN...
COUNT DRACULA.



AND, OUTSIDE...



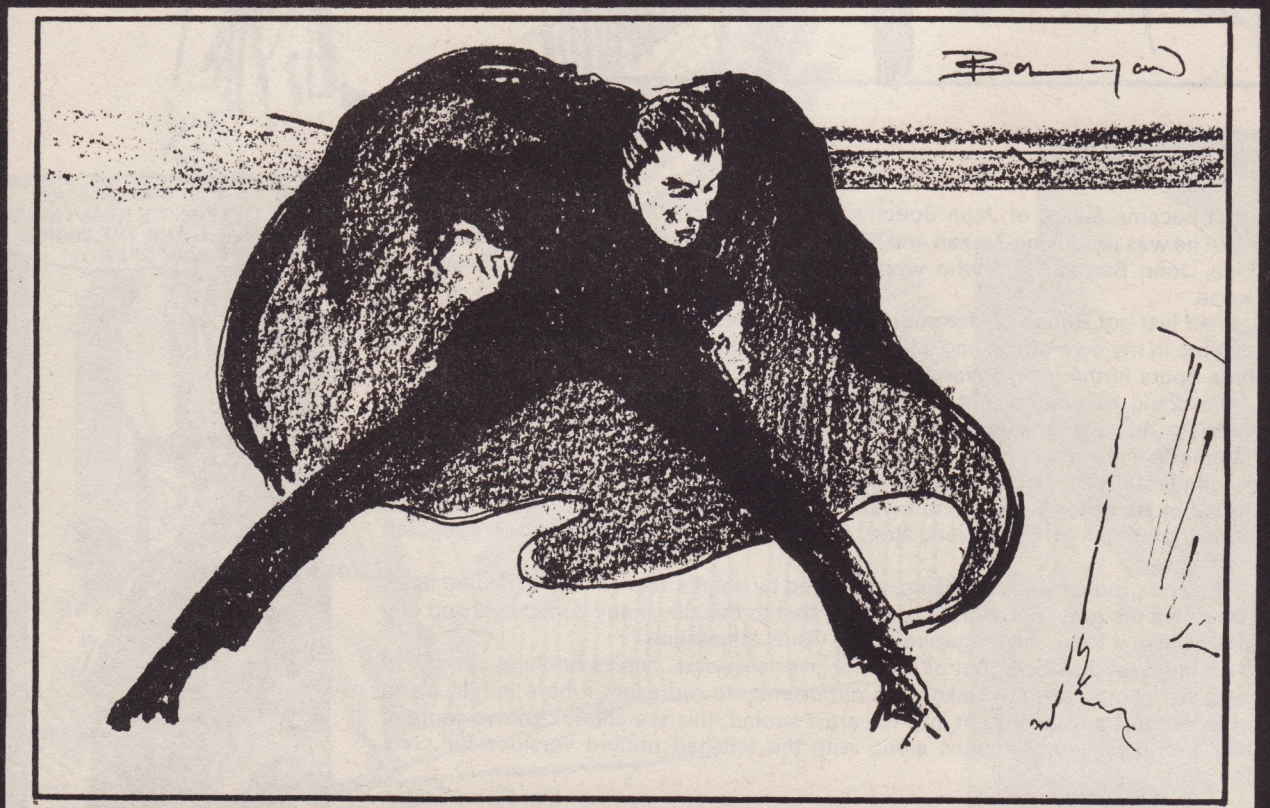
MINA, YOUR HAND!
THE CRUCIFIX BURN
IS DISAPPEARING...

THEN IT'S
OVER, AT
LAST.

AS THE THREE WEARILY
TURN THEIR BACKS ON
THE NOW EMPTY CASTLE A
NEW SOUND GREETES THEIR
EARS FROM THE FOREST.
THE BIRDS BEGIN TO SING.



JOHN BOLTON DRACULA SKETCHBOOK





I first became aware of John Bolton's professional adventure strip work in 1974, when he was producing **Tarzan** and **Flash Gordon** Annual artwork for a colleague of mine, John Barraclough, who worked one floor above me in Columbia-Warner House.

I had just got **House of Hammer** magazine under way, and was spending half of my time in my own office, and half in Hammer House, which was conveniently only three doors further down Wardour Street.

One thing Hammer Script Editor, Christopher Wicking, and I agreed upon was trying to find the absolute top strip artists to work on the magazine, adapting Hammer's films into comics.

John first drew a five-page *Van Helsing's Terror Tales*, a try-out back-up strip, for **House of Hammer 4**. Chris and I were so impressed by his work that we immediately offered him a 15 page lead strip, *Dracula*, *Prince of Darkness*, which appeared in issue 6.

The end product was so striking, enhanced by John's use of 'wash' (diluted black ink to give the grey, photographic effect), that to this day many comic fans and film fans believe it to be the magazine's best visual adaptation.

As the issue has been out of print for over six years, copies fetching over £5 at specialist shops, we have taken this opportunity to represent it here in full. As an added bonus, and an insight into the artist's mind, this sketchbook shows some of John's original pencil roughs along with the finished printed versions for comparison.

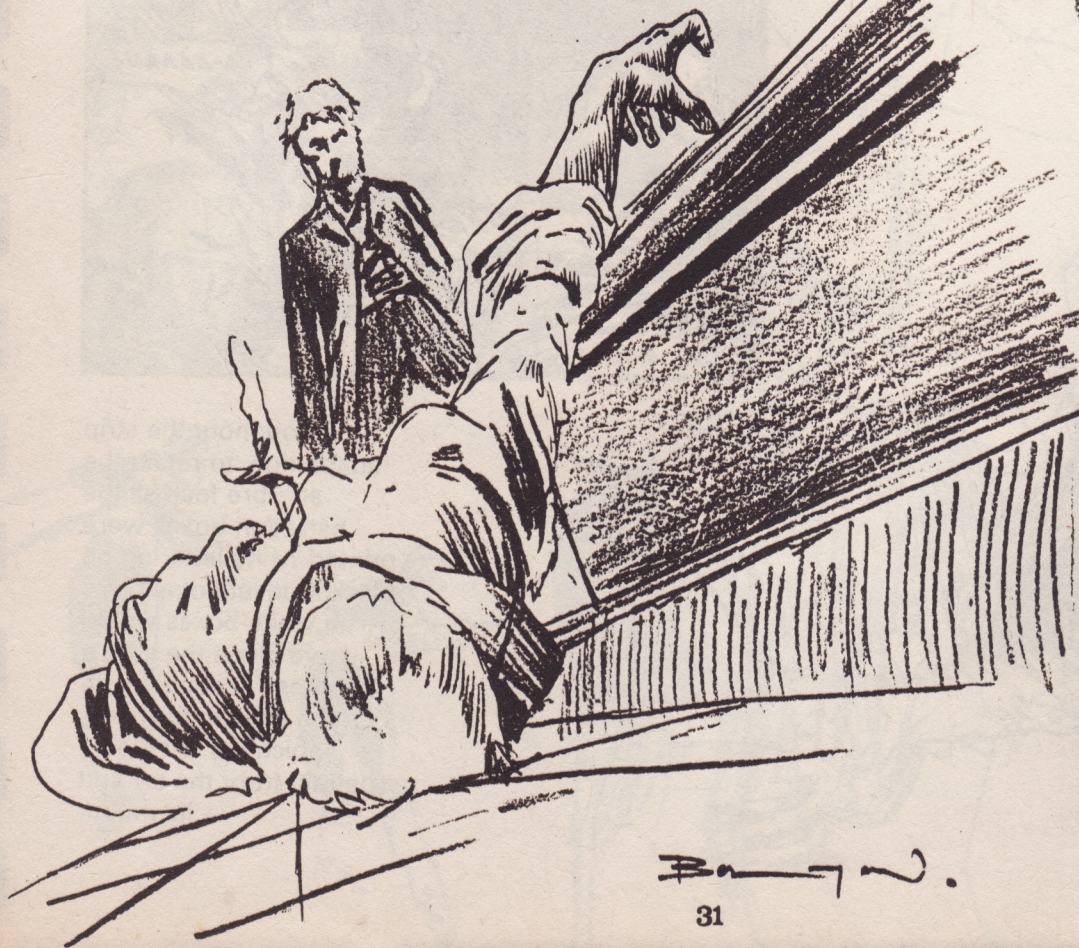
Dez Skinn/Editor.





Most artists pencil their rough sketches and compositions straight on to the board, then tighten and ink over them, thus losing their original pencils. But for *Dracula, Prince of Darkness*, John produced reams of pencil frame sketches on separate sheets of paper, repeating the relevant part of the version of the illustration he preferred in pencil and ink on board.

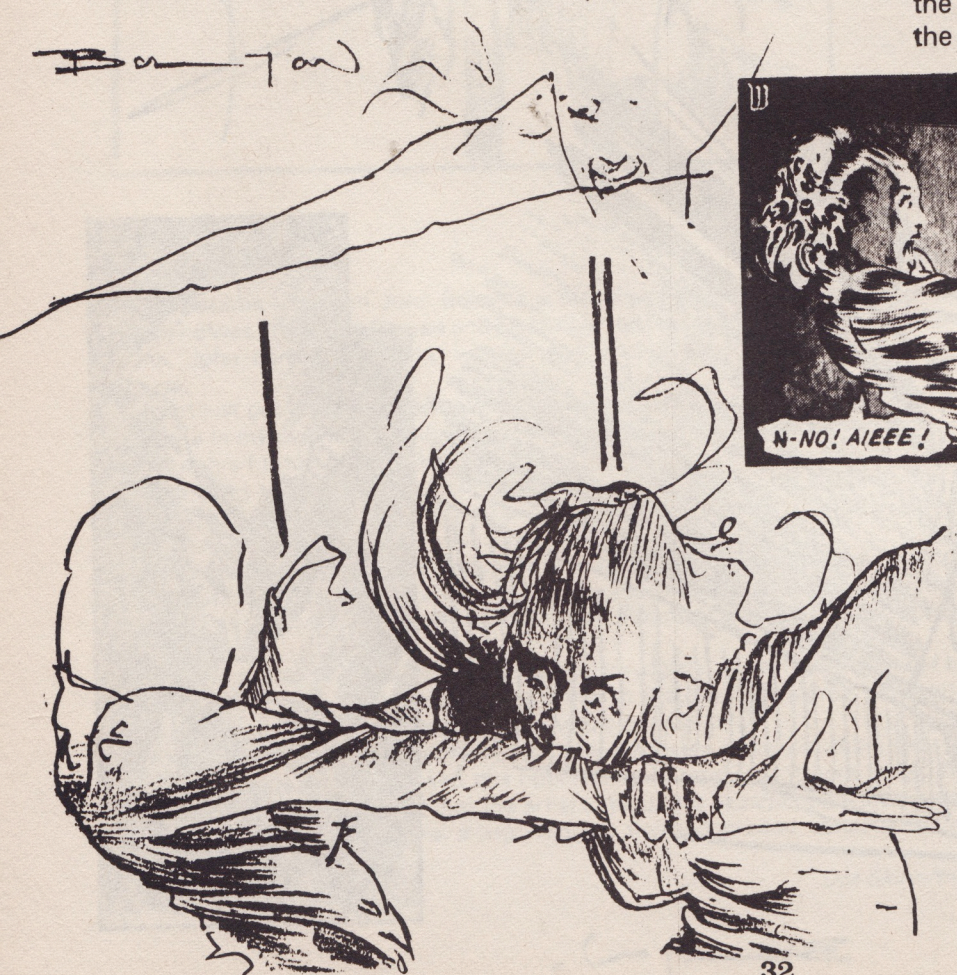
As you can see from the example right, much of the illustration (the victim's arms and head) do not appear in the finished strip's frame. Below: John originally designed the story's first death scene as a full width frame, but in composing the entire page, had to sacrifice the full width and tilt the angle to include an extra (unscripted) frame, of Klove hoisting the victim above the coffin (above).



Barton.

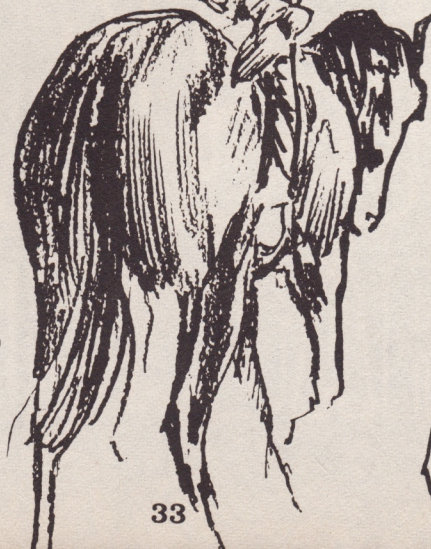


Above: John emphasised the violence of the fight between Klove and Charles by using stark black and white, with no grey tones. Notice the change in pose in Klove (the protagonist) from the sketch to the finished art, as John decided to give greater emphasis to the weapons, clarifying the end of Klove, as opposed to the sketch's vagueness concerning the use of fist or weapon. The finished illustration's sweep shading to the antagonist's clothing also emphasises the sweep of his movement.



Throughout the strip adaptation, to retain the sombre feel, all the narration boxes were printed white lettering on black. Conventional black on white boxes would have given the strip a 'lightness', coupled with the speech balloons, which we felt would detract from the art and its mood.

Not really a spot-the-difference page, but an artist's painstaking study of how to most dramatically depict one of the story's heroes leaping on his horse, ready to pursue his enemy and save the heroine.





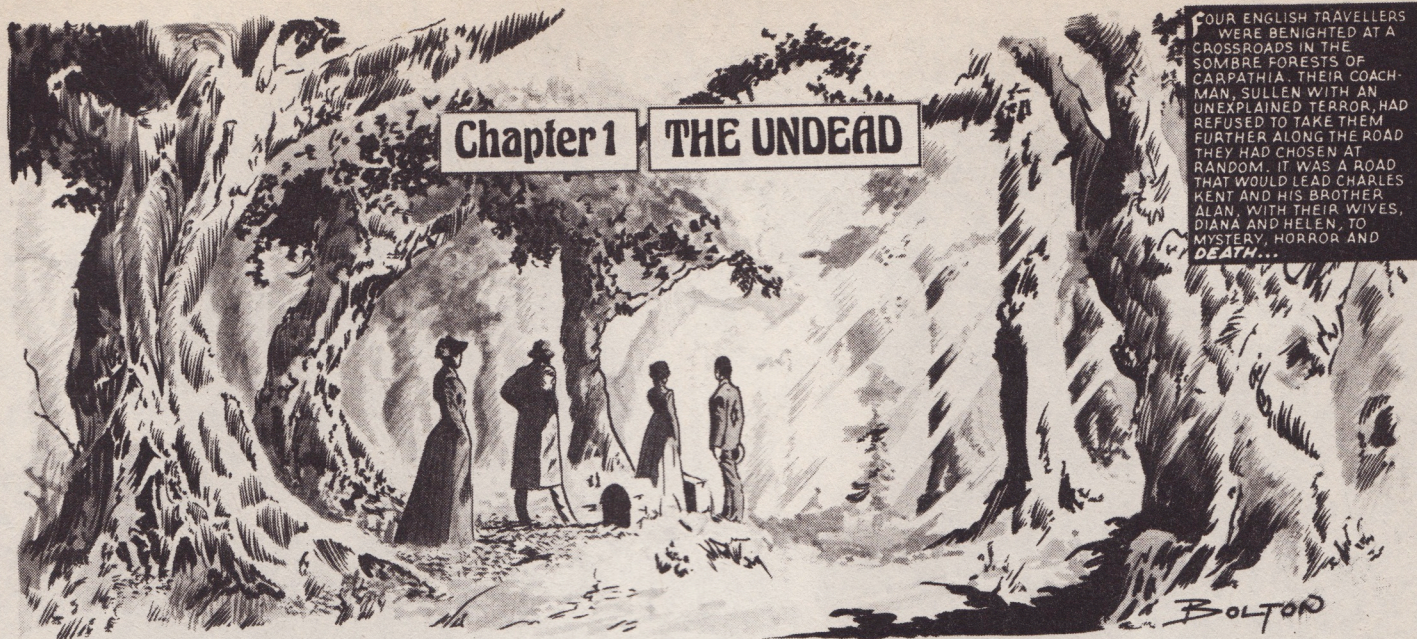
Michael Carreras, then head of Hammer Films Productions, was so impressed with John's artwork for the final confrontation between Sandor and Dracula, as Dracula falls beneath the ice, that he paid us the compliment of saying he preferred it to the actual filmed ending of the story.





DRACULA

PRINCE OF DARKNESS



Chapter 1 THE UNDEAD

FOUR ENGLISH TRAVELLERS WERE BENIGHTED AT A CROSSROADS IN THE SOMBRE FORESTS OF CARPATHIA. THEIR COACHMAN, SULLEN WITH AN UNEXPLAINED TERROR, HAD REFUSED TO TAKE THEM FURTHER ALONG THE ROAD THEY HAD CHOSEN AT RANDOM. IT WAS A ROAD THAT WOULD LEAD CHARLES KENT AND HIS BROTHER ALAN, WITH THEIR WIVES, DIANA AND HELEN, TO MYSTERY, HORROR AND DEATH...



LOOK! THE COACHMAN HAS CHANGED HIS MIND — HE'S COMING BACK!

NO, ALAN! IT'S A DIFFERENT COACH, AND A STRANGE ONE — THERE'S NO DRIVER!



BUT THE HORSES SEEM DOCILE ENOUGH — AND WE'D BE FOOLS NOT TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS CHANCE!



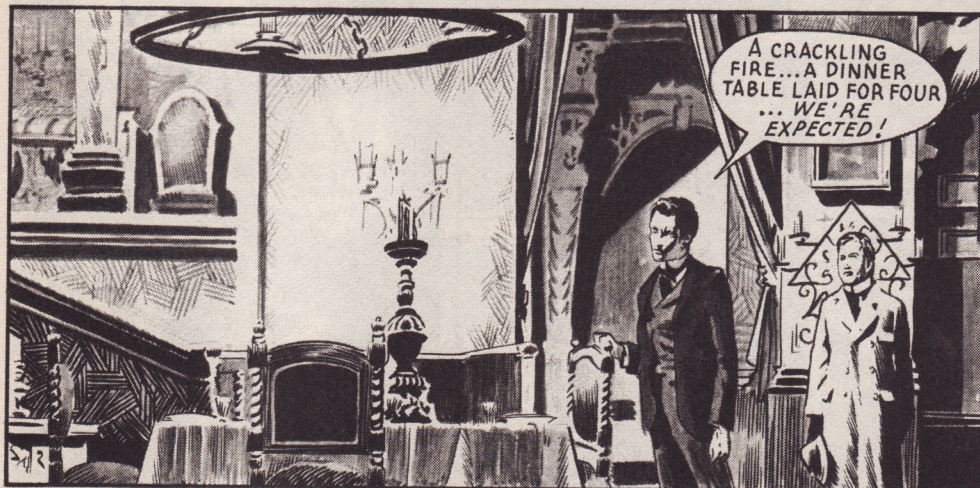
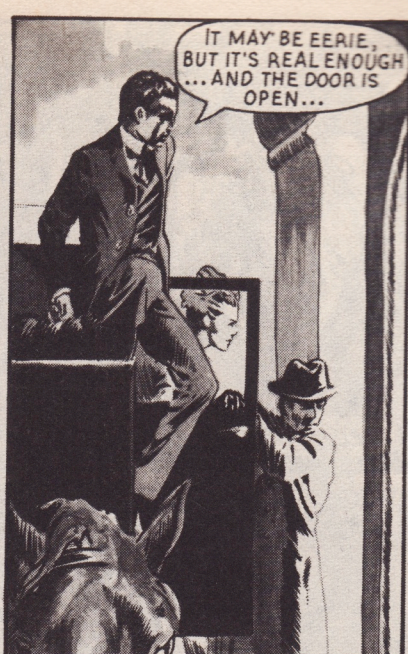
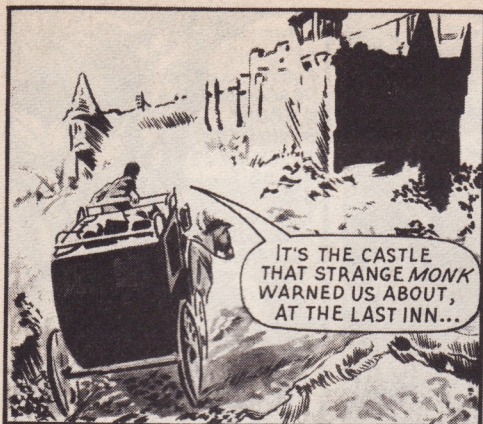
I'LL DRIVE US ALL TO THE NEAREST INN!

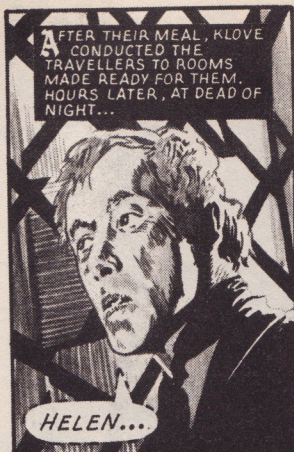


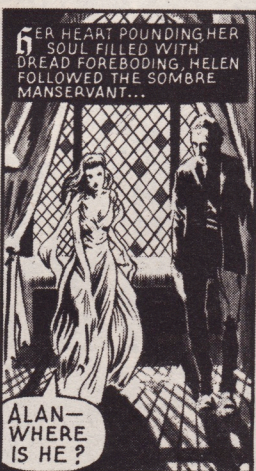
THE HORSES — THEY'RE TURNING BACK — THE WAY THEY CAME! I CAN'T CONTROL THE UGLY BRUTES!



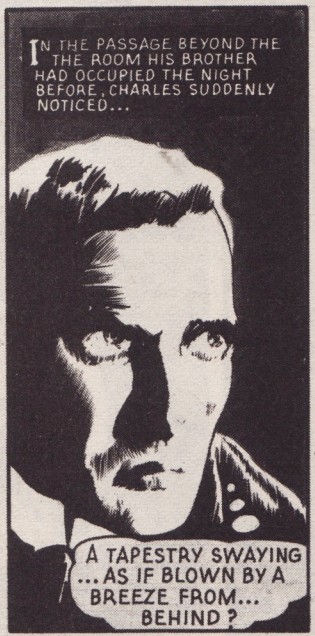
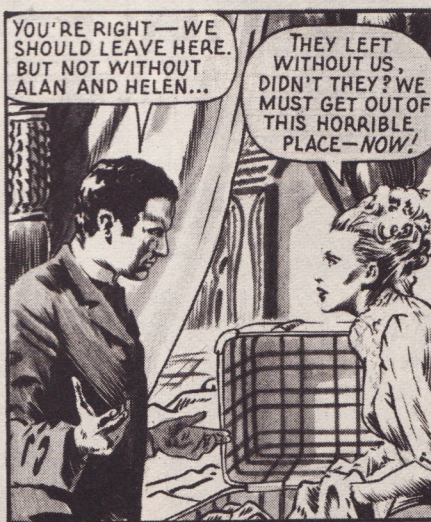
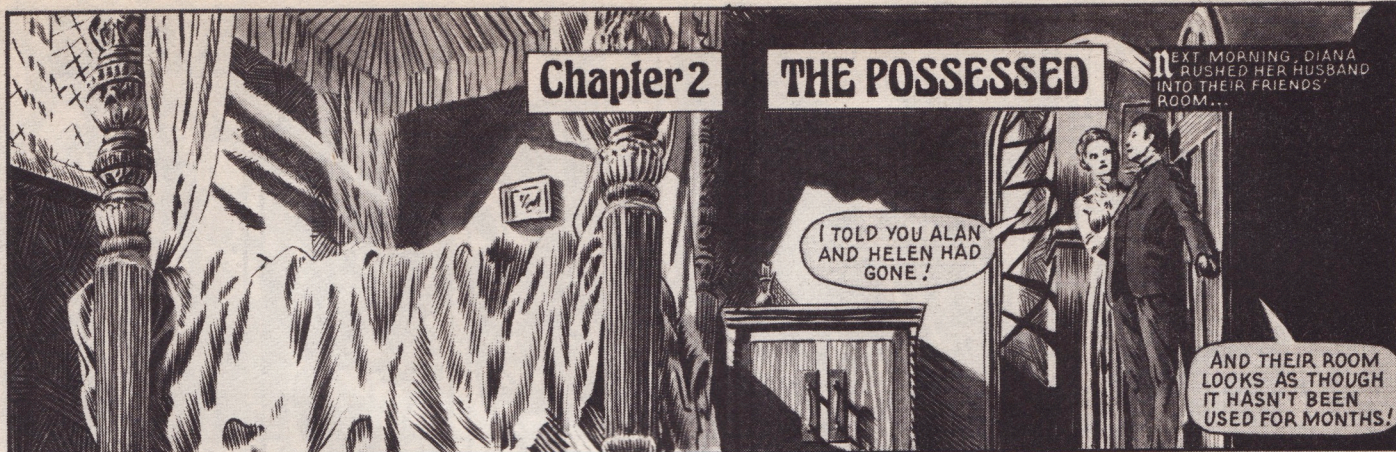
SHORTLY, THE SPEEDING COACH CAME IN SIGHT OF ITS MYSTERIOUS DESTINATION: A PILE OF BLACK TURRETS AND BATTLEMENTS ON A MOUNTAIN CRAG...

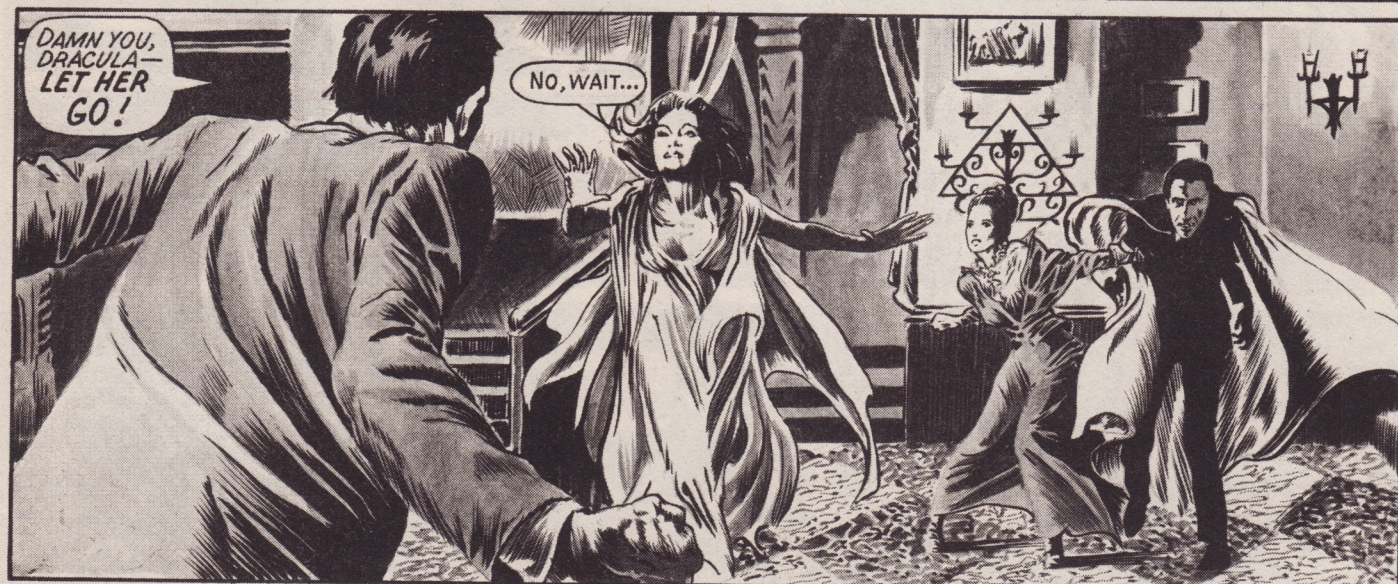
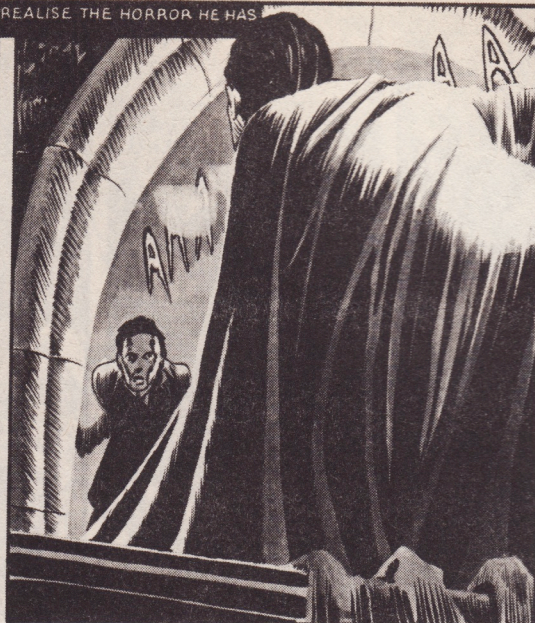






END OF CHAPTER ONE.









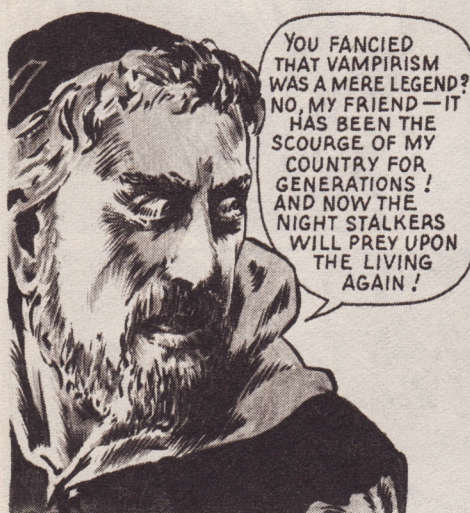
COUNT DRACULA
SNARLED WITH RAGE,
BACKING AWAY FROM
THE HOLY SYMBOL.

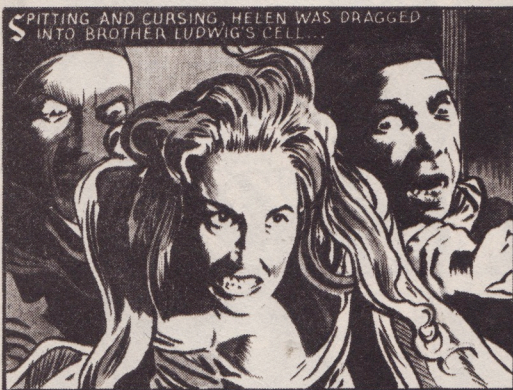
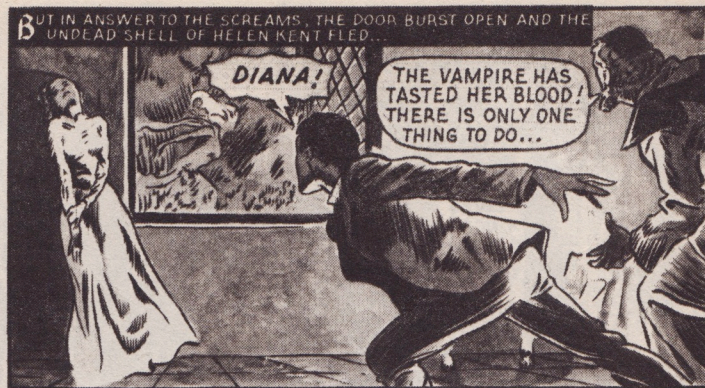
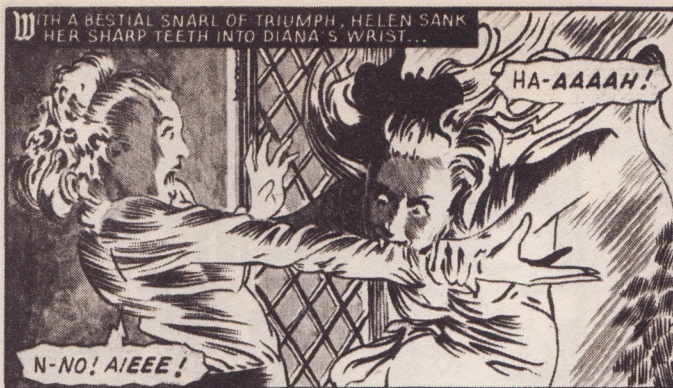


Chapter 3

THE DESTROYERS

THE FUGITIVES WERE GIVEN SHELTER IN THE MONASTERY RULED BY FATHER SHANDOR, WHERE CHARLES KENT TOLD HIS TERRIBLE STORY.







AAAAAGH!



IT IS OVER...
MAY SHE REST
IN PEACE!

BUT WHAT IS THIS? AN IRON BAR,
SAWN FROM THE WINDOW...AND THIS
IS BROTHER LUDWIG'S CELL. FOOL THAT
I AM! YOUR WIFE WAS A *DIVERSION!*
WHILE WE HELPED HER, LUDWIG LET
DRACULA INTO THE
MONASTERY! HE'S STILL
UNDER THE VAMPIRE'S
CONTROL, AND WE LEFT
YOUR WIFE *ALONE!*

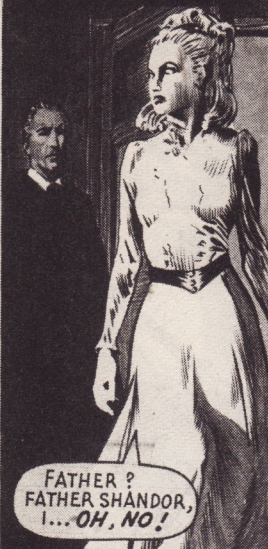


BUT TOO LATE! FOR AS THE TWO RUSH
BACK TO DIANA KENT, LUDWIG IS
ALREADY CARRYING OUT THE
VAMPIRE'S PLANS...

THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR,
MADAM, I ASSURE YOU!
FATHER SHANDOR SIMPLY
ASKED THAT YOU JOIN HIM
IN HIS STUDY...



AND, MINUTES LATER, IN
SHANDOR'S STUDY...



FATHER? FATHER SHANDOR,
I... OH, NO!

S-STAY BACK,
DON'T COME
NEAR ME!



THE FIRES OF
HELL BLAZED
HYPNOTICALLY
IN DRACULA'S
EYES...



DIANA!

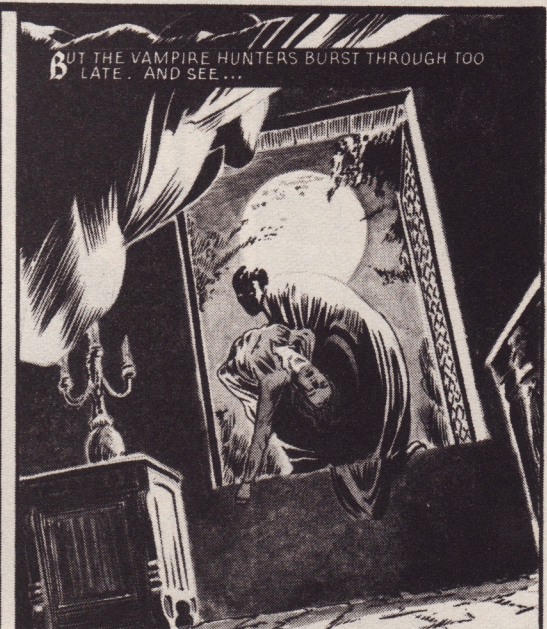
REMOVE...
CRUCIFIX...



...I MUST
OBEY... OBEY...



MY BLOOD, MRS.
KENT. SEE IT FLOW
DOWN MY CHEST. SOON
IT WILL FLOW ALSO
THROUGH YOUR VEINS.



BUT THE VAMPIRE HUNTERS BURST THROUGH TOO
LATE. AND SEE...



IT'S KLOVE—HE WAS WAITING FOR THEM! DRACULA HAS GOT HER, FATHER! HE IS CARRYING HER AWAY!

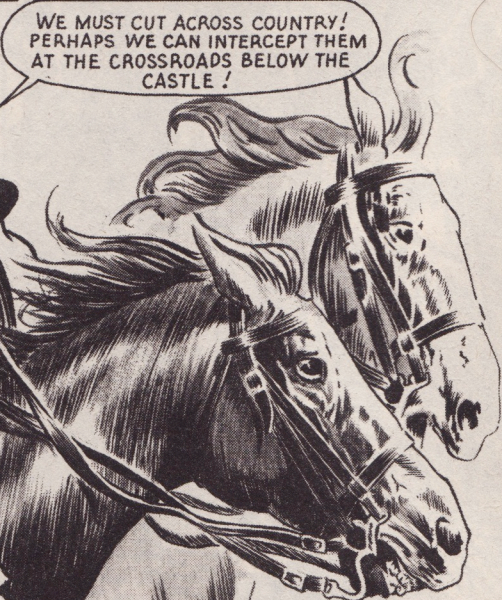
WE WILL FOLLOW THEM—BUT WE MUST BE PREPARED! WE SHALL NEED HORSES... FRESHLY-SHARPENED STAKES AND THE RIFLE...



THEY WILL HEAD FOR THE CASTLE! ONCE THERE, YOUR WIFE WILL BE LOST FOREVER!

THE PURSUERS RODE THROUGH THE LAST HOURS OF DARKNESS AND ALL THE NEXT DAY... BUT STILL THE WAGON WAS AHEAD OF THEM...

WE'LL NEVER CATCH THEM, FATHER!



WE MUST CUT ACROSS COUNTRY! PERHAPS WE CAN INTERCEPT THEM AT THE CROSSROADS BELOW THE CASTLE!



THE PLAN SUCCEEDED...



YES—THERE'S THE WAGON! BUT IT'S GOING TOO FAST!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY...



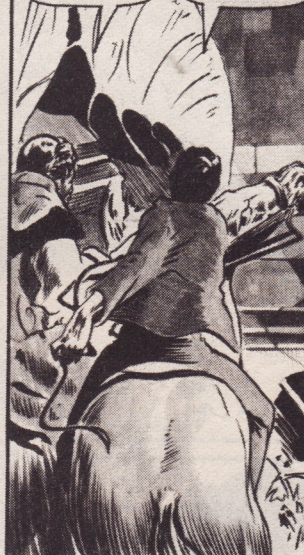
TO STOP IT...



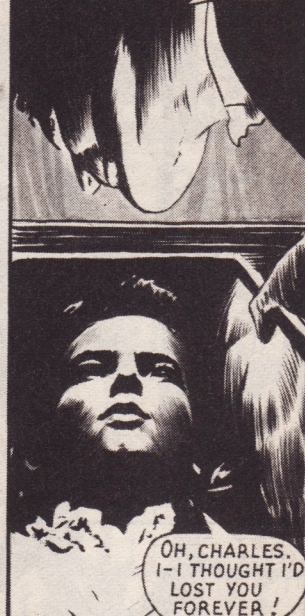
AND, AS THE BLACK HORSES BREASTED THE HILL, THE SUN WAS ALREADY SINKING BEHIND THE TURRETS OF THE CASTLE...



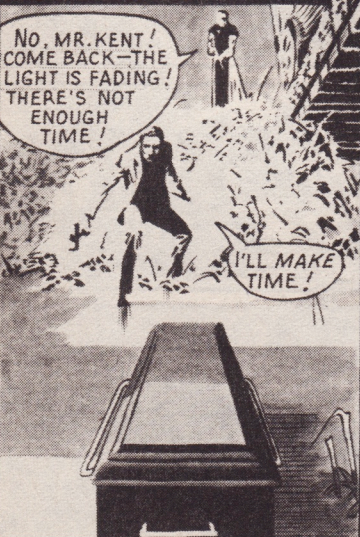
ONE OF THE COFFINS HAS FALLEN OFF - TOWARDS THE MOAT!



DIANA!



RELIEVED, CHARLES KENT SNATCHED THE STAKE AND Mallet AND LEAPT ONTO THE FROZEN MOAT...

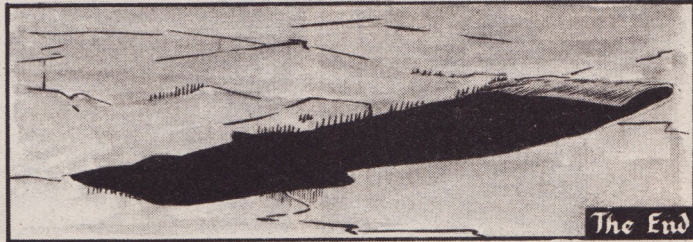
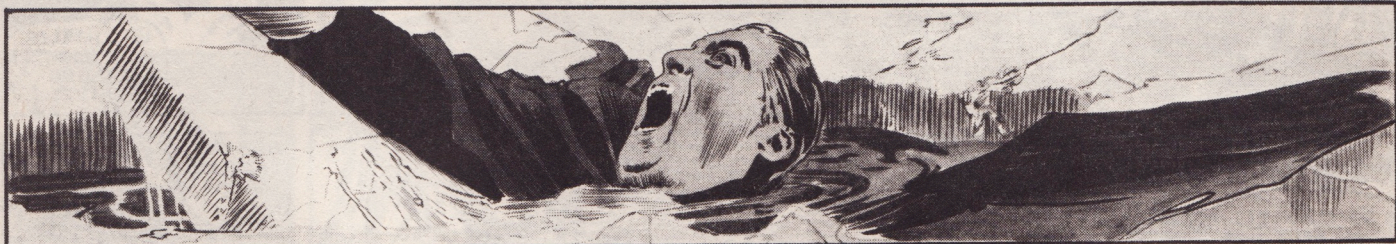
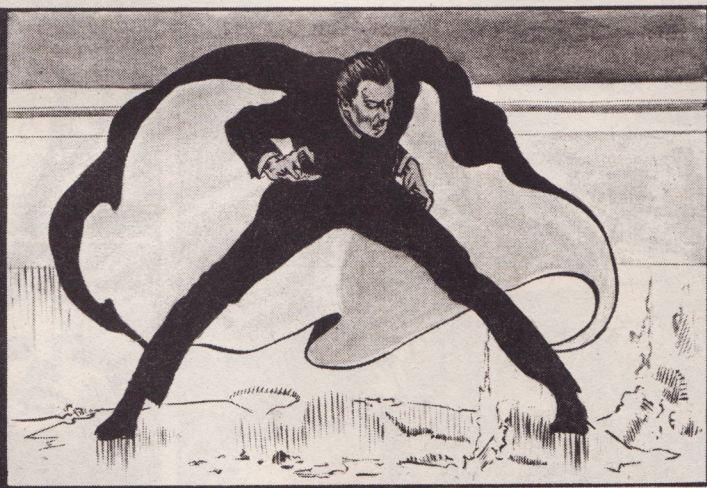


BUT AS HE REACHED THE COFFIN, THE SHADOW OF NIGHT FELL AND THE LID FLEW BACK...



HE'S GOT CHARLES! SHOOT HIM!





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